

**REMARKS**

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy shown to Applicant's representative Josh C. Snider in the series of telephone interviews that concluded on March 11, 2004. The independent claims of the present invention were discussed, and the Examiner considered proposed claim amendments presented by Applicant. Agreement was reached between the Examiner and Applicant's representative that the proposed claim amendments submitted will overcome the outstanding rejections of record. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claim amendments included herewith reflect those changes discussed and agreed upon in the series of telephone interviews. A Request for Continued Examination is also submitted herewith, which withdraws this Application from appeal, to thus allow further prosecution on the merits.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant therefore submits that this Application, including claims 1-12, is in condition for allowance over the rejections of record, which allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if any further interviews would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



Josh C. Snider

Registration No. 47,954

**Customer No. 24978**

March 12, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: (312) 360-0080  
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315